ANNUAL FORM No. 62.

Forest Department, Sind Circle.

Financial results of the year 1886-87.

Division.	Timber and other produce removed from the Forests by Government Agency.		Other revenue.		Formation, protection and improvement of Forests.	Total.		Remarks.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Sukkur.....	1,84,228	1,36,100	36,027	7,951	12,268	2,20,255	1,56,319	
Jacobabad	86,049	69,087	18,944	5,761	7,430	1,04,993	82,278	
Naushahro	86,286	71,234	21,068	6,082	8,471	1,07,354	85,787	
Hyderabad	1,21,834	85,198	30,056	10,308	13,589	1,51,890	1,09,095	
Jerruck.....	82,707	62,215	18,583	8,272	13,737	1,01,290	84,224	
Total.....	5,61,104	4,23,834	1,24,678	38,374	55,495	6,85,782	5,17,703	

Hyderabad,
10*th September* 1887.

J. G. MacRAE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

691—SIND

Statement showing the Progress of Forest Demarcation and Settlement Work in the Sind Circle for 1886-87.

Class of Forests.	At the commencement of the year—Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	Areas settled during the year under		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year—Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.
		Chapter II of the Act.	Chapter IV of the Act.			
	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.
Reserved Forests	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	.....
Protected Forests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

J. G. McRAE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

Forest Administration Reports of the Northern, Southern and Sind Circles, 1886-87.

No. 2232 OF 1888.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 12th April 1888.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, N. C., No. 3972, dated 25th October 1887—Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle for the year 1886-87, with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3813, dated 13th December 1887.
Letter from the Commissioner, C.D., No. R./109, dated 10th January 1888.
} Submitting their remarks on the report of the Northern Circle.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, S.C., No. 3135, dated 18th October 1887—Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle for the year 1886-87, together with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 58, dated 7th January 1888—Submitting his remarks on the report of the Southern Circle.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle, No. 741, dated 10th September 1887—Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1886-87, with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 5396, dated 18th October 1887—Submitting his remarks on the report of the Sind Circle.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle, No. 1292, dated 6th January 1888.
Letter from the Conservator of Forests, S. C., No. 4364, dated 17th January 1888.
Letter from the Conservator of Forests, N. C., No. 6248, dated 1st March 1888.
} Submitting, with reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 8738, dated 24th December 1887, statements showing the progress of forest demarcation and settlement work in the form prescribed by the Government of India for embodiment in the Forest Administration Report for the year 1886-87.

RESOLUTION.—By far the most important feature in the forest history of the year 1886-87 was the decrease of net revenue by nearly 4½ lákhs as shown in the marginal table. An increase is reported in Sind alone, and it appears to have been due mainly to an increased supply of fuel to the North-Western Railway. The Governor in Council, who has read with interest Colonel MacRae's remarks in paragraph 67 of his report, hears with satisfaction that the revenue, both gross and net, of this Circle was the largest on record. In the Southern Circle also, though attention must be called to the somewhat startling results of departmental operations in Ratnágiri and to a smaller extent in Bijápur, shown in Form 62, the fact that the receipts exceeded those of all past years except 1885-86, when the enormous demand for sleepers for the Southern Marátha Railway then under construction swelled them abnormally, is matter for satisfaction, as is also the increasing demand for fuel for that railway.

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Net Revenue.	
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle ..	10,37,297	9,13,101	6,63,640	6,87,865	3,73,657	2,25,236
Southern do. ..	17,92,114	14,33,793	7,22,586	6,94,614	10,69,528	7,39,179
Sind do. ..	5,36,874	6,85,782	4,02,660	5,17,703	1,34,214	1,68,079
Total ..	33,66,285	30,32,676	17,88,886	19,00,182	15,77,399	11,32,494

In spite of these satisfactory features in the working of the Department during 1886-87, His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot but regard with grave anxiety the subject of forest finances in their present relation to the Provincial resources of this Government. It is plain that under the present system the large gross receipts from Sind forests cannot, even if maintained or increased,

add appreciably to the general net revenue. The receipts in the Southern Circle are closely associated with demand for railway construction and working and must, unless otherwise developed, be dependent in great measure upon a demand which in its nature is uncertain; and meantime over the very large area of the Northern Circle causes beyond departmental control or prevision have operated to reduce the receipts from wood and other forest produce. The experience of the season which has passed since 1886-87 carries the same warning, the forest accounts of 1887-88 being estimated to show a deficit on the contract figures of Rs. 23,000.

2. In three of the eleven divisions of the Northern Circle receipts failed to balance expenditure, and in eight the net revenue was less than in the previous year. The main causes assigned are the stagnation of the timber market in Thána, an absence of demand for timber from the forests of the Surat Division, and a fall in the price of myrobalans.

The revenue from grazing fees was, it is observed, higher for the whole Circle than in the previous year, though in Poona, and to a still greater extent in Sholápur, an important decrease is reported, the cause of which in the latter is not explained, but in the former appears to have been to some extent the evasion by professional graziers of the rule requiring them to pay fees when pasturing their cattle in the areas in which "village cattle" are allowed to graze free of charge.

3. The forest area at the beginning and end of the year under review is shown in the following table :—

	Area on 1st April 1886 in Square Miles.		Added.		Excluded.		Area on 31st March 1887.	
	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.
	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.
Northern Circle	7,016	1,013	251	119	36	52	7,231	1,080
Southern Circle	1,816	3,414	6	4	...	6	1,822	3,412
Sind Circle	673	...	34	....	8	...	699	...
Total ...	9,505	4,427	291	123	44	58	9,752	4,492

4. The selection of land for forests was practically completed in Sind and was pushed on rapidly in most of the divisions of the other two Circles. Numerous demarcation reports were submitted to Government for sanction and as a consequence considerable areas, not shown in the above table, were provisionally notified as Reserved Forests under Section 4 of the Forest Act. The final additions to the Reserved Forest area were important in only a few divisions of the Northern Circle, in which they were due to the completion of the settlement inquiries made in respect of lands previously provisionally notified by Government under Section 4. In the Panch Mahâls division alone, in which no Protected Forest had previously existed, was the formation of any considerable area of this class of State property sanctioned, and in this case the expediency of encouraging cultivation in a fertile but backward district rendered desirable a departure from the principle usually acted upon of applying to State forest property the final method of settlement prescribed by the Forest Act for Reserved Forests only.

Mr. Shuttleworth suggests a doubt as to whether the demarcation schemes already sanctioned by Government, more especially those for the subdivisions included in the catchment area of Bombay Harbour, provide sufficiently for the storage of the rainfall, but he should be aware that Government have not sanctioned these schemes without weighing carefully all the arguments on the subject which he has on each occasion brought forward, and considering, on the other hand, the important local interests, conflicting with his alternative and ideal schemes, in thickly populated districts.

5. The Conservators of the Northern and Southern Circles—in Sind settlement is practically completed—in reporting on the work of the various

Forest Settlement and Demarcation Officers have not kept "Settlement" distinct from "Demarcation" work, and though the additions made during the year—in all cases by notification under Section 19 of the Forest Act—to the Reserved Forest area give, no doubt, some idea of the area previously notified under Section 4, in respect of which all the requisite settlement formalities prescribed in the following sections were completed, it is desirable that exact figures showing the progress made in respect of both Reserved and Protected Forests should be given in future reports. As regards the settlement of areas notified under Section 34 the Conservators have separately complied, since the submission of their printed reports, with the instructions contained in Government Resolution No. 8738, dated 24th December 1887, and have submitted statements of which the following is a summary :—

Class of Forests.	At the commencement of the year—Areas under Section 34, in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled, and recorded.	Areas settled during the year under		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year—Areas under Section 34, in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.
		Ch. II of the Act.	Ch. IV of the Act.			
	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.
Northern Circle ... Reserved ...	1,768	68	...	8	...	1,692
Northern Circle ... Protected ...	621	...	...	...	1	620
Southern Circle ... Reserved ...	965	69	...	...	...	896
Southern Circle ... Protected ...	2,667	...	25	...	7	2,635
Sind Circle ... ... Reserved ...	.....	(24)	...	...	...	... ...
Total ... Reserved ...	2,733	137	...	8	...	2,588
Total ... Protected ...	3,288	...	25	...	8	3,255

The figures given by the Conservator of the Sind Circle are obviously incorrect, for if no areas (see column 1) remained unsettled at the beginning of the year, none could be settled during it. Colonel MacRae has apparently not confined, as he should have done, his information to the case of areas previously notified under Section 34. The fact that in the Northern and Southern Circles Poona and Kolába respectively were the only districts in which any settlement at all of such areas was effected, should be further reported on by the Conservators of those Circles. Government have repeatedly urged the necessity for speedily completing the settlement of these lands. Mr. Shuttleworth should have explained why he omitted the two Khándesh Divisions, Násik, Sátára and Sholápur from his statement.

6. The expenditure incurred during the year on the creation and constitution of forests, including the salaries and allowances of Forest Settlement Officers, was as follows :—

	Rs.
Northern Circle	1,36,767
Southern Circle	54,225
Sind Circle	2,562
Total ...	1,93,554

7. The newly established working plans branch of the Forest Department was busily employed during the year in the Thána District, but the results of the season's work show that progress in the preparation of very elaborate schemes for working the forests will be far too slow to justify their occupying for the present the exclusive or even any large share of the attention of that branch. The circumstances of this district necessitate the rapid formation and carrying out of somewhat rough schemes for dealing with the whole of the extensive area in charge of the Forest Department, and the Governor in Council approves generally of the opinions expressed on this subject and the proposals made by Mr. Shuttleworth in paragraphs 49 and 52 of his report. In the Southern Circle though no regular working plans could be prepared the investigations

made in some of the Belgaum Forests adjacent to the Southern Marátha Railway, with a view to preparing a plan for furnishing a sustained supply of fuel to that railway, were of considerable importance.

The Conservator of the Sind Circle reports the successful working of the Laikpur forest by an arrangement with the zamíndár which has the peculiar feature of combining alternations of cultivation with forest in such a manner that the expense of cutting and delivery of wood actually falls upon the profits of cultivation. This experiment is particularly valuable in Sind where the cost of production by departmental agency falls so heavily upon forest finance; its apparent success is, no doubt, due to the very rapid reproduction of wood fit for fuel in watered land in Sind.

8. The subject of forest surveys is intimately connected with that of working plans, which are necessarily based on them. The results of the surveys conducted during the year by the Government of India survey parties in the Thána and Belgaum forests cannot be considered as satisfactory either financially or, looking to the slow progress made, from an administrative point of view, and the Government of India have already been addressed on the subject of a revised scheme for surveying the forests in future. No adequate return for the heavy cost of the present survey can, it is feared, be expected, and it seems clear that in Tháua, at all events, the working plans branch, for whose use the maps are mainly required, will, if the scheme recommended by Mr. Shuttleworth is adopted, be compelled to dispense with them altogether until a large portion of its work is completed. For reasons which have been sufficiently stated by Colonel MacRae little progress could be made with the departmental survey of the forests of the Sind Circle.

9. The result of prosecutions under the Forest Act was more satisfactory than in the previous year in the Southern and Sind Circles, but slightly less so in the Northern, where, however, the result may be attributed almost exclusively to the remarkable failure of prosecutions in Sátára, where the non-success of 71 out of 87 seems to show that cases were sent up for trial without sufficient preliminary inquiry. The attention of the District Magistrate should be given to this matter and report made to the Commissioner as to the cause of such an unsatisfactory result. The Conservator should address the District Magistrates on the point raised at the close of his paragraph 78 regarding procedure preliminary to the trial of forest cases in regard to which it would appear that the provisions of the law are not properly complied with.

An increase in the number of compounded cases is reported by the Conservators of the Northern and Sind Circles. Mr. Shuttleworth's remarks in paragraph 78 of his report on the system of compounding offences appear to be sound,

10. As regards the general protection of the forests nothing that calls for special notice is reported. The question of amending Section 41 of the Forest Act, with a view mainly to the circumstances of forest administration in Thána, is still under consideration.

11. The Governor in Council has learnt with regret the prevalence of fires in the Upper Sind forests during the year under review, and he also regrets to hear that the protection of those forests from fire is considered by Colonel MacRae to be hopeless. That officer again urges the expediency of firing the reed jungles. The explanation he has now given of the features of his scheme places its advantages in a much clearer light than that previously submitted by him, and as the scheme appears to provide for the systematic destruction of blocks of worthless jungle, which cannot ordinarily improve and is liable at any time to destruction by fire, as the only means of preventing fires spreading into valuable forest, and is, therefore, somewhat akin to, though more extensive than, the ordinary "fire path" system of protection, the Governor in Council believes that the Government of India can have no objection to an experimental trial in selected areas, which is accordingly sanctioned.

12. The relations between the protective staff and the people appear to have been generally satisfactory, and the Governor in Council has already, in

reviewing the Administration Report of the Collector of Thána for 1886-87, had occasion to notice the decrease of friction in that district.

13. The special free grants of timber made during the year under review were as usual of little importance, but the Conservator, N. C., has in paragraph 139 of his report pointed out that the free grants of various kinds of produce made in the form of "privileges" exceed in value the total forest revenue of his Circle. On this very difficult subject the Governor in Council does not consider that any remarks are here necessary, as it will be dealt with elsewhere. The Governor in Council has always been careful, while formally conceding liberal privileges on the completion of a forest settlement to communities which are reported to have enjoyed them, though as a matter of favour and not of right, for many years past, to make it clearly understood that such privileges are intended to be exercised as of favour only and are subject to withdrawal at any time.

14. For reasons stated in the Conservators' reports little expenditure on "communications" was incurred during the year under review. Government have, however, in Resolution No. 8738 of 24th December 1887, informed the Commissioners that in the case of any road-construction contemplated by the Local Boards, which is likely to be of service to the Government forests, some assistance from Government may be looked for.

15. The Conservator, N. C., should be requested to submit, after consultation with the other two Conservators, a detailed scheme for carrying out the proposal made in paragraph 157 of his report. With a view to diminishing the sedentary work of officers whose principal duties must be performed inside the forests, and in order to decrease the cost of the clerical staff, it seems to the Governor in Council eminently desirable that some such scheme should be adopted.

E. LAWRENCE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
The Commissioner in Sind,
All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind,
The Conservator of Forests, N. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, S. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle,
The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
The Accountant General,
The Judicial Department of the Secretariat,
The Editors' Table, Bombay,
The Editors' Table, Poona, *care of* the City Magistrate, Poona,
The Editor and Proprietor, *Dhárwár Vritt*, Dhárwár (for his own use and for circulation to other Editors of newspapers in Dhárwár),

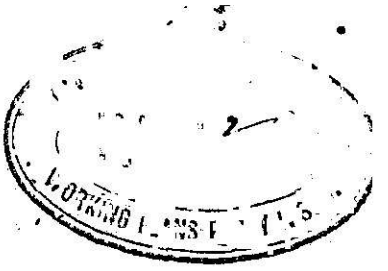
} With copies of the reports.

The Government of India,
The Secretary of State for India.

} By letter.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

OF THE



FOREST DEPARTMENT

IN THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

INCLUDING

SIND;

FOR THE YEAR 1888-89.

Bombay:
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS.

1890.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

No. 3696 of 1889-90.

From

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH, Esquire,

Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle;

To

JOHN NUGENT, Esquire,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Revenue Department,

Bombay.

Poona, 31st October 1889.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle for the year 1888-89, with its subsidiary statements.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,

Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

B 623—a NG